reviews cover the progress of implementation of approved schemes and the future financial and other requirements of the State utilities.

Review of **Electricity Act**

2161. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Electricity Act, 2003 needs a review in order to have effective reforms in power sector; and

(b) what are the views of Government with regard to incorporating provisions relating to open access, accountability to Regulatory Commission etc.?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) The National Common Minimum Programme of the Government states "The review of the Electricity Act, 2003 will be undertaken in view of the concern expressed by a number of States. The mandatory date of June, 10,2004 for unbundling and replacing the State Electricity Boards will be extended".

The mandatory date of June 10,2004 for unbundling of State Electricity Boards has been extended for periods ranging from 2 months to 12 months in respect of 13 States who had requested for such extension. Further, the State Transmission Utilities having authorization under the repealed electricity laws, have been authorized to engage in the activity of bulk purchase and sale of electricity to distribution companies for a further period of one year from 10th June, 2004.

(b) The Electricity Act, 2003 provides for open access in transmission from outset. Section 42 of the Act provides that the State Regulatory Commissions shall introduce open access in distribution in phases having due regard to all relevant factors including cross subsidy and other operational constraints. It further provides that open access to all consumers, who require a supply of electricty, where the maximum power to be made available at any time exceeds one megawatt, be provided not later than 27th January, 2009.

As per the provisions of the Electricty Act, 2003, the licensees are accountable to Appropriate Regulatory Commission. One of the functions of the State Regulatory Commission under the Act is to specify and enforce standards with respect to quality, quantum and reliability of service by licensees. A distribution licensee is also mandated under the

Act to establish a forum for redressal of grievances of consumers in accordance with the guidelines specified by the State Regulatory Commission. The Act also requires the State Commission to appoint/designate Ombudsman to look into non-redressal of consumers' grievances and settle the same within such time and in such manner as may be specified by the State Commission.

Section 142 of the Act provides for punishment for non-compliance of directions issued by Appropriate Commission.

Affix energy labels

2162. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any legislation asking the companies to affix the energy label, mentioning annual energy consumption on house-hold gadgets, agriculture pumps and lighting equipments;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether Government propose to introduce the system of affixing energy labels mentioning maximum permissible energy consumption etc.; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and by when the new norms would come into effect?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI P.M. SAYEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The Government of India has enacted the Energy Conservation Act, 2001 (52 of 2001) to provide for efficient use of energy and its conservation and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. Clause (d) of Section 14 of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001, *inter alia,* provides that the Central Government may, by notification, in consultation with the Bureau of Energy Efficiency, direct display of such particulars on table on an equipment or appliance specified under clause (b) of Section 14 of the Energy Conservation Act, 2001, in such manner as may be specified by regulations. The regulations are at draft stage.